

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the United States Agency for International Development to Act as Administrator

December 9, 2008

Memorandum for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development

Subject: Designation of Officers of the United States Agency for International Development to Act as Administrator

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Order of Succession. Subject to the provisions of section 2 of this memorandum, the Assistant Administrators for the Bureaus, in the order in which they were appointed as an Assistant Administrator, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of the Administrator (Administrator), during any period in which the Administrator and the Deputy Administrator have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, until such time as the Administrator or Deputy Administrator are able to perform the functions and duties of that office:

- (a) Bureau for Africa;
- (b) Bureau for Asia;
- (c) Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance;
- (d) Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade;
- (e) Bureau for Europe and Eurasia;
- (f) Bureau for Global Health;
- (g) Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (h) Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs;
- (i) Bureau for Management; and
- (j) Bureau for the Middle East.

Sec. 2. Exceptions. (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as the Administrator pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) No individual listed in section 1 shall act as Administrator unless that individual is otherwise eligible to so serve under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by law, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Administrator.

Sec. 3. This memorandum supersedes the President's memorandum of July 10, 2002, (Designation of Officers of the United States Agency for International Development to Act as Administrator).

Sec. 4. This memorandum is intended to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 5. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 11, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on December 12.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Darfur Human Rights Activist Halima Bashir

December 10, 2008

The President. I have just had the distinct pleasure and honor of visiting with Dr. Halima Bashir, who wrote a book called "Tears of the Desert." This good soul brings firsthand accounts to what life is like in Darfur. She has witnessed violence, deprivation, and she carries a message of a lot of people who want our help.

I assured her that, in spite of the economic difficulties, our aid will continue to flow. We will use our influence to make sure the aid gets to the people of Darfur.

I also made it clear that I am frustrated with the pace of activities; that the United

Nations must expedite sending troops, peacekeepers, to provide security for the people. That's what they want; they want to be able to have a secure life, and that we'll help.

The United States continues to stand at the ready to provide airlift. The pace of action out of the United Nations is too slow. We support the mediation process by the A.U.-U.N. mediator. In other words, we recognize in order for there to be peace in Darfur that parties must come to the table in good faith and solve the problems.

And finally, it's very important for President Bashir of Sudan to know that he cannot escape accountability; that if he so choose, he could change people's lives—the condition of people's lives very quickly.

I've appointed a Special Envoy to Sudan to help put pressure on the Government. The United States must continue to rally the international community to put pressure on the Government as well. The urgency of the situation is never more apparent than when I had the honor of visiting with this brave soul.

And so I welcome you to the Oval Office. And I welcome any comments you want to make.

Halima Bashir. Yes, of course. Thank you very much for the President to invite me to the White House. And I think this is—I'm very happy because now Darfur victims' voices is heard in the White House and to the American people and to the world. And I think the President, the message I send to him is going to do more work in Darfur to handle the situation, and to—[inaudible]—and the ICC ruling and just to stop the genocide and the crisis in Darfur. Because now more than 5 years, and we do not need to wait anymore. We need real action.

And thank you very much.

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Djibril Yipene Bassole, Joint AU-UN Mediator for Darfur; President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan; and Ambassador Richard S. Williamson, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan.

Remarks Following a Discussion on Drug Use Reduction

December 11, 2008

I've just had an extraordinary discussion with a group of our fellow citizens; some are pastors, some are ex-cons, some are baseball players, some are docs, some are community activists, all who have come together to talk about a comprehensive strategy to deal with drug use in America.

And our strategy is threefold: one, reduce demand, interdict supply, and then help people who have become addicts. And we're making progress. No question, there's still work to do in America, but we are making progress. And one way to note the progress is this statistic: Since 2001, teenage drug use has declined by 25 percent; that means 900,000 fewer teens on drugs.

The strategy can be measured. The implementation requires understanding that grass-roots activists—for example, like the faith community—can play an integral work in working alongside government to achieve our objectives. The Admiral here has—Admiral Allen, Commandant of the Coast Guard, reported about our interdiction efforts—that we've been making great progress at interdicting, for example, cocaine being trafficked primarily out of South America and Central America into our country.

And finally I am pleased that the Access to Recovery program and programs like that are vibrant and active, which basically says to an addict: If you so choose, you can redeem your health, redeem your money at a place of love in the faith community.

Lives are changing. People's lives are being saved. I say government is justice, government is law and—but government must not fear places of love. And so this has been a positive report and a great meeting, and I want to thank you all for coming. More importantly, I want to thank you for being citizens, and not spectators—people who have decided to do something about your personal lives, as well as the lives of those in your communities. It is the collective effort of thousands of social entrepreneurs that help make America a hopeful place.

There will be more work done after I'm out of here, but we have laid the foundation